Sports Athletics

Qassempour heading to Zagreb Open in one last shot at Paris slot

Sports Desk

6

Iranian freestyle wrestler Kamran Qassempour will make a final attempt to secure a berth at next year's Paris Olympics when taking part at the Zagreb Open Ranking Series, starting January 10. Qassempour will participate in the 97kg contests – one of six freestyle weight classes in Paris – in the Croatian capital as he will be looking to add the Olympic glory to his double 92kg world golds in 2021 and 2022.

The Iranian missed out on last week's National Championships – serving as the trials for the international events – due to a hamstring injury but Iran head coach Mohsen Kaveh and his technical staff were convinced to give him a second chance for the Olympic slot.

The injury setback kept Qassempour from defending his title in September's World Championships in Belgrade, as well as the Hangzhou Asian Games in October. Qassempour's previous international appearance came in last December's Freestyle World Cup in Coralville, Iowa, where he represented the country in the 92kg contests before falling to a 5-0 defeat against American great Kyle Snyder – a winner of four world and Olympic golds – in the final showdown's 97kg bout.

Two-time world under-23 champion Amir-Ali Azarpira emerged as a contender for a place in the Iranian squad in Paris after winning the 97kg title at the National Championships in Sari.

Mohammad-Hossein Mohammadian, who was the Iranian 97kg wrestler at the Tokyo Olympics, looked to be the favorite for the top spot after a first-round victory over injured Mojtaba Goleij but came short against Azarpira in the final showpiece.

Iran has already been guaranteed three freestyle slots at the Olympics, thanks to world medal-winning campaigns for Hassan Yazdani (86kg) and Amirhossein Zare' (125kg), plus Rahman Amouzad's fifth-place finish in the 65kg contests – with the 57kg, 74kg, and 97kg spots at stake.

A former world U20 and U23 bronze medalist, Ahmad Mohammadnejad Javan dominated the 57kg contests in Sari, defeating 2021 world silver winner Alireza Sarlak in the final, and will likely be Iran's top choice to chase the Olympic quota in the coming months.

Hossein Abouzari, meanwhile, made the most of Amirmohammad Yazdani's below-par performance in Sari to grab the 74kg gold and will be joined by Mohammad Nokhodi – 79kg bronze medalist in Belgrade – in an international tournament to decide who will represent the country in April's Asian Championships in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, as well as the Olympic qualifiers.





DYLAN MARTINEZ/REUTERS

Russia still banned, but 'world changes', says Coe

REUTERS – The Olympic door for Russian track and field athletes remains firmly shut, Sebastian Coe said on Monday, but he also offered them a glimmer of hope by acknowledging "the world changes" and highlighting a working group that is monitoring the situation.

Earlier this month the International Olympic Committee (IOC) said that Russians and Belarusians who qualify in their sport for the Paris 2024 Games can take part as neutrals without flags, emblems or anthems, changing the position of their original blanket ban following the invasion of Ukraine.

That followed a recommendation in March that put the onus on international sports federations to decide, with most of them moving to allow the two countries' athletes to return. Athletics, the Games' biggest and most popular sport, immediately responded by saying they would keep their ban in place, but Coe seemed less certain when speaking to journalists on Monday.

"There is no change," he said. "The most important thing is that the autonomy and independence of international federations to make these judgements is really important. We made a judgement which we believe was in the best interest of our sport.

"Do I see anything changing in the foreseeable future? I don't know. The world changes every five minutes, the situation could change. We do have a working group that is monitoring the situation within the sport and it will advise and guide (the policy-making) Council on what circumstances might need to exist for any exclusion to be lifted."

Joshua doesn't have the heart to fight me: *Wilder*

BBC – Deontay Wilder believes Anthony Joshua does not "have the heart" to fight him, but says a bout between the former heavyweight world champions is closer than it ever has been.

The pair are on the same bill in Saudi Arabia on Saturday and could fight each other in 2024 if they both win.

"I don't want to say he's 100% afraid, but

a little bit confusing, but what's understood doesn't have to be explained," the American told BBC Sport in the build-up to Saturday's event in Riyadh.

"We'll see what happens. The future is bright and we are farther [in talks] than we've ever been in history. I can say that with certainty."

On a stacked card in Saudi Arabia, Brit-

Second Announcement Tender invitation Invitation to public tender for Dextrose (DEX)//28000Kg

Tabriz petrochemical company intends to procure its required quantity of Dextrose (DEX) for Acrylonitrile Butadiene Styrene (ABS) production plant from reputable & reliable producer and supplier of said product. Interested suppliers should submit their request to below email in order to get tender documents until Dec 28, 2023.

Deadline for submission of offers for tender is: january 09, 2024. **Email:** n abmadian@toco ir **Phone No:** +98-41-34217426

I think he's 75%," said Wilder. Joshua told BBC Sport he would "love to fight" Wilder, but is eyeing the IBF title first if he beats Otto Wallin.

Wilder is one of the greatest knockout punchers in heavyweight history and, while not convinced about Joshua's intentions, remains hopeful of getting him in the ring. "I've learned over the years especially dealing in boxing that nothing is for sure, until it's for sure. And I know that's ain's Joshua tops the bill against Sweden's Wallin after Wilder takes on former champion Joseph Parker.

Both Joshua and Wilder are on the comeback trail after losing world titles in the past three years to Oleksandr Usyk and Tyson Fury respectively.

On why the pair have not yet met, Wilder said: "Money hasn't been the issue. It comes with not having the heart, the will, the courage to step in the ring."



Tender	No	Quantity	
Dextrose (DEX)	PVS-0241048	28000 kg	
Public Relations of Tabriz Petrochemical Company (Public Stock)			
First turn published: December 14, 2023	Second turn publ	ished: December 20, 2023	

Second Announcement Tender invitation Invitation to public tender for Diatomite// 22000 kg



Tabriz petrochemical company intends to procure its required quantity of Diatomite for ABS production plant.

Interested suppliers should submit their request to below email in order to get tender documents until January 04, 2024.

Deadline for submission of offers for tender is: January 20, 2024.

Email: me.rahimi@tpco.ir Phone No.: +98-21-88737355#109

Tender	No	Quantity	
Diatomite	PVS-0241020	22000 kg	
Public Relations of Tabriz Petrochemical Company (Public Stock)			
First turn published: December 14, 2023	Second turn publ	ished: December 20, 2023	

• BBC